

AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Branch Annual Meeting via Zoom, Thursday, March 18, 7:00 pm

Nature/Nurture Program Helps Underserved Youth



Andrea Foster

Andrea Foster, Director of Programs & Partnerships for the Little Forks Conservancy will present her Nature/ Nurture program for underserved youth at alternative high schools and juvenile care centers. The program connects teens to the outdoors and gives them the opportunity to be part of the community. She also created OUTdoors Together, a hiking group for LGBTQ individuals and allies. She holds a second job with Midland Kids First running the Midland Mentors program at the Midland County Juvenile Care Center. Andrea says, "You never know who needs to hear what you have to say, so you just have to say it ... and when you treat kids like people, not problems, they listen."

Andrea has a certificate from Duke University in non-profit management, and is a member of both the Shift Institute's prestigious Emerging Leaders Program and the 2020 cohort of Saginaw Valley State University's Henry Marsh Institute for Public Policy. She volunteers for Midland County Search and Rescue, chairs the Midland Young Professionals group, and is a trained member of Al Gore's Climate Reality Leadership Corps. Andrea has become a nationally-known speaker on bringing inclusion and diversity to programming.

Branch members will receive the link to the meeting on March 17th via E-Blast. The Program Committee invites branch members to share the Zoom link with family and friends.

President's Message ~ LuEllen DeLine

Spring is on the way with warmer weather. It is encouraging news that many of us have had our first and second Covid-19 vaccinations. We continue to stay connected during these isolating days through our Zoom meetings, phone calls, emails, and greeting cards.

Let's celebrate! March 8th is International Women's Day. International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. Significant activity is witnessed worldwide as groups come together to celebrate women's achievements or rally for women's equality. The campaign theme for International Women's Day 2021 is 'Choose To Challenge' (hold the control key down and click on the underlined words to open the website.)

A challenged world is an alert world and
from challenge comes change.
So let's all choose to challenge.
How will you help forge a gender equal world?
Celebrate women's achievement.
Raise awareness against bias.
Take action for equality.



Have You Tried It? That is AAUW's "Two-Minute Activist"

Jane Wirth ~ Public Policy Officer

As the AAUW website says: *You provide the voice. We'll provide the megaphone.*

It can't be much easier to let your members of Congress know your thoughts. AAUW even provides content for your email which you can use as is, add content to express your particular interest in proposed legislation (this is suggested), or amend to really make the message yours.

On the AAUW.org home page, click on the magnifying glass icon and type "Two-Minute Activist" in the window that appears. Then click on the "Two-Minute Activist" option and you are on your way. There are numerous options from which to choose; pick one or more that voice support for AAUW's mission.

Let our Senators and Representative know you care. **Let your voice be heard!**

All Women's Equal Pay Day: The Michigan Women's Commission is celebrating Equal Pay Day on March 24 at 4:00 p.m. The Commission is a supporting organization of the Michigan Equal Pay Day Coalition which is not hosting an event this round. As part of the celebration, a report will be unveiled that speaks to Women in the Michigan Workforce. Governor Gretchen Whitmer will be the featured speaker. Details are still developing, but *mark your calendars* and additional information will be forwarded as it becomes available.

Activity in the State Legislature: Perhaps there are times when you'd like to know the progress of a bill in our state legislature. As an example, two bills have been introduced in the Michigan House of Representatives to restrict the carry of all firearms in and around the Capitol. To see what happens to them, go to www.legislature.mi.gov and in the window for House bills enter 4023 or 4024. Bills 4270 and 4271 are the "tampon tax" bills, which might also be of interest. This site will let you follow the actions associated with these bills. Look around for other legislation of interest and contact your State Representative or State Senator if you have an opinion you'd like to share with them.



NCCWSL 2021: A Virtual Experience for Young Leaders

Carol Hoerneman-Plaush ~ College/University Relations

Hundreds of college women from around the country, including two our Branch is sponsoring, will gather virtually for two days of leadership training, inspiration and networking at the annual National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). The online event will be held May 25-26, 2021.

The 2020 NCCWSL Conference was cancelled due to COVID-19. The two women, Sasha Boileau, from Midland and Simone Vaughn from Saginaw, who were selected by our Branch to receive scholarships to attend the 2020 conference are now scheduled to participate in the 2021 Virtual Conference. Sasha is part of the Dow College Opportunity Program. She calls it Dow C.O.P. It's a program aimed to help low income students go to college. Simone was the Miss Saginaw County Scholarship Pageant winner in 2019. She is a Communications Major at SVSU. Simone worked with homeless programs all over the state of MI.

Branch Officers to Be Elected at the Annual Meeting

Barb Galloway ~ Nominations Officer



President (2021-2022): Carol Arnosky

1st Vice President—Program Development (2021-23): Chris Ferrando

Recording Secretary (2021-23):

Nominations Officer (2021-22): Ruth Copp

Communications Officer (2021-23): Teresa Beadlescomb

Delegate-at-Large (2021-2022): Deb Kaiser

Spring Used Book Sale ~ Trudy Dutot, Used Book Sale Coordinator

It is with great regret that we have decided to once again cancel the Spring Used Book Sale. We hope that once the vaccine is more widely distributed it will be safe enough to have a sale later in 2021. The situation will be closely monitored and the membership will be updated when a decision is made for the next sale. Take care and stay safe!



Mini Fundraiser a Success

Our puzzle fundraiser raised \$3,842.55 for our scholarship fund. The puzzles brought in \$284.00 and we received \$3,496.00 in donations. Carol Arnosky sent a check for \$62.55 for books that she sold online.

A big thank you goes to Gina Pederson who donated the great puzzles and coordinated the sale and to Carol for her initiative to sell books from our stock of sale books.

Thank you for all your support. It is most appreciated.

Mark Your Calendar

March 18	Annual Meeting Zoom presentation, 7:00 pm
April	No meeting
May 20	Spring Luncheon, Midland Country Club - time to be announced

President: LuEllen DeLine ~ 1st VP Program: Chris Ferrando
2nd VP Membership: Judi Cox ~ The Twig Editor: Pauline Pittsley

Web sites: <https://midland-mi.aauw.net> <https://aauwmi.org/> E-mail: aauwmidland@gmail.com